

1 Samuel 20:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

Analysis

And as soon as the lad was gone, David arose out of a place toward the south, and fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times: and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.

The friends' tearful parting 'until David exceeded' shows depth of grief at separation. David's greater weeping reflected his greater loss - home, position, family, future. The threefold bowing and mutual kissing followed ancient protocols for emotional leave-taking. This poignant scene represents the cost of faithfulness: those who love deeply must sometimes part painfully.

Historical Context

Bowing three times indicated profound respect and honor. Kissing between men expressed deep affection in ancient Near Eastern culture. David's excessive weeping may reflect his greater uncertainty about the future.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you handle grief at partings that faithfulness requires?
2. What does the depth of David's weeping teach about the emotional cost of following God's path?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּלֶךְ	בֵּן	דָּוִד	קָם	מֵאֶצֶל	הַנֶּגֶב			
And as soon as the lad	was gone	David	arose	out of a place toward	the south			
H5288	H935	H1732	H6965	H681	H5045			
וַיִּפֹּל	לְאַפּוֹ	אֶרֶצָה	וַיִּשְׁתָּחוּ	שָׁלֹשׁ	פְּעָמִים			
and fell	on his face	to the ground	and bowed	himself three	times			
H5307	H639	H776	H7812	H7969	H6471			
וַיִּשָּׁקוּ	אֶחָד	אֶת	הַשֵּׁנִי	וַיִּבְכּוּ	אֶחָד	אֶת	הַשֵּׁנִי	עַד
and they kissed	one		another	and wept	one		another	
H5401	H376	H853	H7453	H1058	H376	H853	H7453	H5704
דָּוִד	הִגְדִּיל:							
David	exceeded							
H1732	H1431							

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 29:11 (Parallel theme): And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

1 Samuel 18:3 (References David): Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.